IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Patent Application of	**MAIL STOP**
Takashi Kitaoka et al.	Group Art Unit: 3738
Application No.: 10/671,767	Examiner: CHRISTOPHER D PRONE
Filed: September 29, 2003	Confirmation No.: 7544
For: INDWELLING STENT AND LIVING ORGAN DILATOR	

COMMENTS ON EXAMINER'S STATEMENT OF REASONS FOR ALLOWANCE

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

The Notice of Allowability issued in the above-identified application is accompanied by an Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance. The comments in the Statement are not consistent with the language in each of the allowed independent claims and so this paper is being filed to point out that the comments in the Statement are clearly not intended to imply that the independent claims actually use the wording set forth in the Statement.

Claim 1 recites an indwelling stent formed in a substantially tubular shape, having a diameter allowing for insertion into a living organism and expandable when radially outward forces are exerted thereon from the inside of the tubular shape, wherein the stent comprises annular units arranged in an axial direction of the stent, each of the annular units comprises a plurality of collapsed annular elements so arranged as to surround the stent axis, each of the annular elements is elongate in the axial direction of the stent and has an opening in a central portion thereof, adjacent portions of the annular elements are joined to each other through a joint, adjacent annular units being interconnected at the joints by at least one link, the

annular elements in each said annular unit are so arranged that one of each adjacent pair of the annular elements is axially offset in the axial direction of the stent relative to the other annular element of the adjacent pair of annular elements, end portions of each of the annular units are projected zigzag, said zigzag projected end portion of the annular unit is in the state of penetrating into the adjacent annular unit, each of the links has a primary axis substantially parallel to the stent axis and the joints in each said annular unit have a primary axis substantially parallel to the stent axis, each respective one of the links and the joints of the two annular units to which the respective link is connected form a straight line, wherein two or more of the links are provided between an adjacent pair of the annular units.

Claim 8 recites an indwelling stent formed in a substantially tubular shape, having a diameter allowing for insertion into a living organism and expandable when radially outward forces are exerted thereon from the inside of the tubular shape, wherein the stent comprises annular units arranged in an axial direction of the stent, each of the annular units comprises a plurality of collapsed annular elements so arranged as to surround the stent axis, each of the annular elements is elongate in the axial direction of the stent and has an opening in a central portion thereof, adjacent portions of the annular elements are joined to each other through a joint, adjacent annular units being interconnected at the joints by at least one link, the annular elements in each said annular unit are so arranged that one of each adjacent pair of the annular elements is axially offset in the axial direction of the stent relative to the other annular element of the adjacent pair of annular elements, end portions of each said annular unit are projected zigzag, the zigzag projected end portion of the annular unit is in the state of penetrating into the adjacent annular unit,

each of the links has a primary axis substantially parallel to the stent axis, and the joints in each said annular unit have a primary axis substantially parallel to the stent axis, each respective one of the links and the joints of the two annular units to which the respective link is connected form a straight line, wherein the annular elements are aligned substantially rectilinearly with respect to the axial direction of the stent.

Claim 12 recites a living organ dilator comprising a tubular shaft main body, a foldable and expandable balloon provided at a distal end portion of the shaft main body, and a stent so mounted as to envelop the balloon in a folded state and expandable by expanding the balloon, wherein the stent is an indwelling stent formed in a substantially tubular shape, having a diameter allowing for insertion into a living organism and expandable when radially outward forces are exerted thereon from the inside of the tubular shape, and the stent comprises annular units arranged in an axial direction of the stent, each of the annular units comprises a plurality of collapsed annular elements so arranged as to surround the stent axis, each of the annular elements is elongate in the axial direction of the stent and has an opening in a central portion thereof, adjacent portions of the annular elements are joined to each other through a joint, adjacent annular units being interconnected at the joints by at least one link, the annular elements in each said annular unit are so arranged that one of each adjacent pair of the annular elements is axially offset in the axial direction of the stent relative to the other annular element of the adjacent pair of annular elements, end portions of each said annular unit are projected zigzag, the zigzag projected end portion of the annular unit is in the state of penetrating into the adjacent annular unit, each of the links has a primary axis substantially parallel to the stent axis, and the joints in each said annular unit have a primary axis substantially

parallel to the stent axis, each respective one of the links and the joints of the two annular units to which the respective link is connected form a straight line, wherein two or more of the links are provided between an adjacent pair of the annular units.

Claim 18 recites an indwelling stent formed in a substantially tubular shape, having a diameter allowing for insertion into a living organism and expandable when radially outward forces are exerted thereon from the inside of the tubular shape, the stent comprising annular units arranged in an axial direction of the stent, each of the annular units comprising a plurality of collapsed annular elements so arranged as to surround the stent axis, each of the annular elements being elongate in the axial direction of the stent and possessing an opening in a central portion thereof, adjacent portions of the annular elements in each of the annular units being joined to each other through a joint, with each adjacent pair of annular units being interconnected by at least two links, at least one link being connected to one of the joints connecting adjacent annular elements in one annular unit and one of the joints connecting adjacent annular elements in an adjacent annular unit, the annular elements in each annular unit being so arranged that one of the annular elements of each adjacent pair of the annular elements is axially offset in the axial direction of the stent relative to the other annular element of the adjacent pair of annular elements, the adjacent annular units being positioned relative to one another such that an end portion of each of a plurality of annular elements in one annular unit is positioned between end portions of two annular elements of the adjacent annular unit, wherein the at least one link has a primary axis substantially parallel to the stent axis and the joints in each of the annular units have a primary axis substantially parallel to the stent axis, and the at least one link forms a straight line with the one joint connecting

adjacent annular elements in the one annular unit and the one joint connecting adjacent annular elements in the adjacent annular unit.

The comments in the Statement of Reasons for Allowance should not be understood to imply that the allowed claims in this application recite anything different than that which the claims themselves recite.

Should the Examiner disagree in any manner with the comment set forth above, or should the Examiner have any questions concerning this papers, the undersigned respectfully requests that he be contacted at the number indicated below.

Respectfully submitted,

BUCHANAN INGERSOLL & ROONEY PC

Date: June 23, 2008 By: 

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